



WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT



Finalising the Environmental Impact Statement and Airport Plan

The proposed Western Sydney Airport is one of Australia's largest infrastructure projects in recent years and will be the first major new Australian airport development in decades. The Airport Plan outlines the proposed development, and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provides a comprehensive assessment of the environmental and social changes the airport may bring.

Environment and development requirements

Development of a Western Sydney Airport is a unique project. It is subject to environment and development requirements under both the federal *Airports Act 1996* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act).

Development of an EIS and an Airport Plan are part of these requirements.

Community consultation

The draft Airport Plan and draft EIS were on public exhibition from 19 October to 18 December 2015. This provided the community the opportunity to understand both the details of the project and the potential impacts of the airport on the community and the environment.

Almost 5,000 submissions on the draft Airport Plan and draft EIS were received from individuals, community groups, government agencies, organisations and industry. These submissions have been collated and considered as part of the process to finalise both documents.

While individual submissions will not be published, the EIS includes a Submissions Report that details the issues raised and how they have been addressed.

As required under the EPBC Act, copies of all comments received on the draft EIS were forwarded to the Environment Minister for consideration, along with the final EIS.

The EIS

The EIS addresses the EIS guidelines issued for the proposed airport under the EPBC Act in January 2015. It is a detailed assessment of both the construction and operation of Stage 1 of the proposed Western Sydney Airport (one runway and capacity for up to 10 million passengers a year), as outlined in the Airport Plan. It also provides a strategic long term assessment of potential impacts as the airport grows beyond the Stage 1 development.

The assessment of existing conditions for the airport site and surrounding locality is based on desktop and field investigations, together with community and stakeholder feedback. Field investigations into noise, flora and fauna, local water and air quality, and European and Aboriginal heritage were carried out in 2015. Additional investigations were carried out in 2016 following community feedback on the draft EIS.

Mitigation measures are outlined in the EIS to minimise potential impacts of the proposed airport. These measures aim to protect the environmental and social values of the airport site and surrounding area.

The EIS was finalised in September 2016 and consists of five volumes:

- ➔ Volume 1—Background and project scope;
- ➔ Volume 2—Stage 1 development;
- ➔ Volume 3—Long term development;
- ➔ Volume 4—Technical reports; and
- ➔ Volume 5—Submissions report.

The Airport Plan

The Airport Plan provides information on Stage 1 of the proposed Western Sydney Airport along with an overview of its potential long term development. The Airport Plan takes into account the comments received during the community consultation period and includes a number of mandatory environmental and operational conditions that are placed on the development of the proposed airport.

The Airport Plan outlines the concept design for the airport development, including:

- ➔ the development objectives;
- ➔ the land use plan for the airport site; and
- ➔ the airport layout.

The Airport Plan was finalised by the Infrastructure Minister in December 2016. As the final approval stage, the Airport Plan authorises the construction and operation of Stage 1 of the proposed airport. The Australian Government will continue to work with the community as planning progresses towards an operational Western Sydney Airport in the mid-2020s.